IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Hideki KADO et al.

Serial No.: New

Filed: July 3, 2003 (herewith)

For: FORWARD/BACKWARD SWITCHING CONTROL APPARATUS FOR HYDRAULIC DRIVE VEHICLE, AND CONTROL METHOD

> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 AND 1.98

The Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 3, 2003

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the Examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the aboveidentified application. One copy of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language document, an English abstract, is attached to the listed document.

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It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,

VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC (Formerly) Varndel Legal (Toup)

R. Eugene Varndell, Jr. Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 29,728

Atty. Case No. VX032535 106-A South Columbus St. Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 683-9730 V:\Vdocs\W_Docs\July03\P0-152-2535 IDS.doc

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